3: Chinnery G, E-5 (1929) 1931 OM10 New Ireland OM10

Ordinance. The political division, therefore, is the unit of government. In the centre of the settlements thus grouped together is the local government rest house (House Kiap), where official business is usually conducted. Throughout the paper I shall call political divisions "villages."

As the settlements themselves are scattered at irregular intervals in long straggling lines (sometimes a mile or more in length), I found it more convenient in collecting my data to follow the usual practice and call every one to the House Kiap for interrogation.

It would have been better, however, had I examined the various families where they lived and recorded the information alongside each house. This course would have taken up much more time, but it would have enabled me to see and talk to old, sick, and infirm people who had not been able to assemble at the House Kiap—people, who, though few in numbers, might have had important information for the records. During my investigation, information regarding such absentees was supplied by the local Luluais and friends of the missing ones. From the point of view of method, therefore, it is important that everyone should be seen and interrogated personally in the place where he lives.

The people were given notice of my coming, and invariably they were ready for interrogation the moment I arrived in a recording centre, i.e., the village House Kiap. Nearly everyone understood "pidgin English", but nevertheless competent interpreters, together with the more intelligent of the older men of each village, stood by to assist. The reason for the work and its relation to administrative activities for native welfare were explained in each village, and the importance of exactitude was stressed. Men and women were then called up and interrogated in turn. In each case, the birth-place of the husband and wife was entered for the purpose of investigating systems of inter-village marriage. Ages of men, women, and children could only be estimated. Males and females said to have passed the reproductive age are recorded as "old". Children apparently having passed the age of puberty appear in the age group as fourteen years and over. Opposite each man's name are all the women he has at any time married, and in line with each of these wives are the names of her male and female children, entered in order of birth. Those absent at school or work appear in a special column with the necessary additional particulars. The children of each marriage who have died were given by name (friends assisting where the memory of the mother was weak), but in the columns of deaths they appear as follows ♂ ♀ males and females dying during lactation, ♂ ♀ males and females stillborn, ♂ ♀ males and females dying after lactation. Special note is also made of first-born children who have died during lactation.